

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings.

1-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths which best satisfies the R_{ACR} in accordance with one or more rules, if there are more than one of the M alternative paths.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths with a maximum amount of unreserved resources to satisfy the R_{ACR} , if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths with a least amount of unreserved resources but enough unreserved resources to support the R_{ACR} , if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting a first one of the M alternative paths found to satisfy the R_{ACR} , if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths that satisfies the R_{ACR} according to one or more custom criteria, if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~Claim 6~~ Claim 16, wherein selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic, comprises selecting one of the M alternative paths that satisfies the R_{ACR} according to one or more fuzzy rules, if there is more than one of the M alternative paths.

13-14. Cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon computer executable instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

determine that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-real time connection with a Minimum Cell Rate (R_{MCR}) and Peak Cell Rate (PCR) of R_{PCR} ;

ascertain whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the R_{PCR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is equal to or greater than 1; and

select one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the M alternative paths exist, the selected one of ~~them~~ the alternative paths

replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session;

ascertain whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR} , if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR} , but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

select one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist, the selected alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for performing congestion control in a node in a connection-oriented packet-switching network, the method comprising:

determining that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-real time connection with an available cell rate of R_{ACR} ;

the source node ascertaining whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the R_{ACR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is equal to or greater than 1;

the node selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the M alternative paths exist;

the source node ascertaining whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR} , if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR} , but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

the source node selecting one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist, the selected alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session.

17. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

means for determining that there is an indication of traffic congestion in a first path connecting a source node and a destination node for a communication session, wherein the first path is a non-real time connection with an available cell rate of R_{ACR} ;

means at the source node for ascertaining whether M alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy the R_{ACR} for transferring traffic between the source node and the destination node, wherein M is equal to or greater than 1; and

means at the source node for selecting one of the M alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the M alternative paths exist, the selected one alternative path replacing the first path for a remainder of the communication session;

means for ascertaining whether X alternative paths exist with available resources able to satisfy a reduced Available Cell Rate of R'_{ACR} , if M alternative paths do not exist, wherein R'_{ACR} is less than the R_{ACR} , but is greater than a new available cell rate for the first path if rate control were instituted to eliminate the traffic congestion; and

means for selecting one of the X alternative paths to reroute the traffic between the source node and the destination node if the X alternative paths exist.

18-20. Cancelled.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, comprising receiving a notification of traffic congestion at the source node.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the source node is configured to receive a notification of traffic congestion.